

## **Professional Development Committee Year End Report 2008-2009**

### **Mandate**

The mandate of the Professional Development Committee is:

- to support and develop strategies and programs to promote professional development for the membership of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union at the individual, school, Local and provincial levels
- to provide advice to the Provincial Executive on matters relating to professional development and in-service education
- to monitor the professional development needs of the membership
- to liaise with the Local Professional Development Committees
- to meet annually to identify themes and topics for future issues of Aviso
  - to set editorial policy
  - to set advertising policy
  - to evaluate issues of Aviso
- to make recommendations with regard to future directions for the publication; and to prepare recommendations for the Provincial Executive
- to consider such resolutions as may be referred by Annual Council and make appropriate recommendations
- to participate as required in the NSTU Policy Review Process by providing recommendations for the Provincial Executive's consideration.

Activities of the PD Committee include:

- Administering the NSTU Summer Travel Fellowship Grant Program
- Administering the NSTU Educational Research Award Program
- Supporting and assisting Local PD Committees
- Offering professional development opportunities, in cooperation with Local PD Committees, to enhance skills at the Local PD Committee level
- recommending policy to the Provincial Executive on matters relating to the professional development needs of the membership

The NSTU Professional Development Committee for the 2008-2009 school year was comprised of the following members:

Tony Kelly, Chair – Digby Local  
Cynthia MacKinnon – Pictou Local  
Duncan Smith – Anitgonish Local  
Darlene Bereta – Northside-Victoria Local  
Angela Gillis – Halifax City Local  
Bonnie Mahaney – Shelburne Local  
Susan Noiles (Provincial Executive) – Halifax County  
Betty-Jean Aucoin, Staff Liaison

Meeting Dates

The Professional Development Committee met on the following dates during the 2008-2009 school year:

6 October 2008  
23 January 2009  
17 April 2009

The activities of this year's Professional Development Committee included the following:

- The committee organized and facilitated a very successful annual PD Conference on November 7-8, 2008. This conference, which is held on the first Friday evening and Saturday morning in November, was attended by over 37 teachers. The theme of the conference was "Teaching in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." The Friday evening keynote was presented by Ron Brunton, NSTU Staff "Cyber Bullying" and Betty-Jean Aucoin, NSTU Staff "Teaching for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." Saturday morning included two keynote sessions – "Using the Internet for Teaching, Learning & Assessment" presented by Sue Taylor-Foley, South Shore Regional School Board and "Engaging Millennials" presented by Gerard Cormier, NSTU Staff.
- The committee vetted applications for Summer Travel Fellowships, Education Research Awards, Out-Of-Province Conference Grants, and Full-time Study Grants.
- The committee reviewed existing policies as required under Policy Review Procedures.
- Committee met as the AVISO Editorial Advisory Board. The committee provided feedback on recent issues and selected themes and features for the 2009-10 year.
- The committee initiated the planning for the Annual Professional Development Conference to be held on 7 and 8 November, 2009 at the Delta Halifax. The theme for this year is in support of Mid-Career teachers, "Reclaiming Your Voice, Your Energy and Your Passion for Teaching."
- The committee reviewed Annual Council 2009 Professional Development Resolutions and made recommendations to Council on four of these resolutions.
- The budget for the committee was \$7,329.00. The actual cost of the committee's business was \$6,203.01.

As outgoing chair, I wish to thank all of the committee members for their commitment of time and their energy and expertise.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tony Kelly, Chair  
Professional Development Committee